

Allen-Scott Report

'Muzzling' Quiz to Turn Spotlight On 'Mystery Man' of the Pentagon

STAT

By ROBERT S. ALLEN and PAUL SCOTT

Senators looking into the "muzzling" of military officers are planning to turn their investigative spotlight on the behind-the-scenes activities of the Defense Department's No. 1 mystery man.

Adam Yarmolinsky, a special assistant to Defense Secretary McNamara, is being summoned by the Senate armed services investigating subcommittee for questioning about his "participation in the clearance of training films and in special events involving the Defense Department in public programs."



Mr. Allen

Specifically, the investigators, headed by Sens. John Stennis, D-Miss., and Strom Thurmond, D-S.C., will grill Yarmolinsky about his role in barring military officers and civilian defense personnel from taking part in "Captive Nations Week" programs.

These programs, held throughout the nation once a year during a week designated by Congress, are designed to let the millions of people behind the Iron Curtain know that they are not forgotten by the American people.

THE SENATORS also want to question Yarmolinsky about reports that he used his powerful influence in the inner defense circle to see that certain anti-Communist training films were barred from circulation among the military services while working to substitute a film showing the Soviet Union in a more favorable light.

The former Yale honor student, who has helped place more than 50 persons in key government jobs, will first be interviewed by staff investigators and then called to testify publicly.

The dramatic stage for Yarmolinsky's grilling was set Feb. 15 when Stennis directed James T. McFall, the subcommittee's chief counsel, to invite Cyrus R. Vance, McNamara's general counsel, stating:

"Could you please arrange for an interview with Mr. Adam Yarmolinsky by one of our staff members. Either in the Pentagon or this office."

The discussion will deal with Mr. Yarmolinsky's participation in the clearance of training films and in special events involving DOD (Department of Defense) in public programs such as Captive Nations Week, etc. Any additional comments or efforts to educate military personnel on communism will be welcome."

ACCORDING TO AN AIDE of McNamara, the subcommittee's initiative hit the Pentagon like one of the Khrushchev's hydrogen super bombs. Its fallout carried across the Potomac to the White House, where a presidential aide sent back word to McNamara that he consider easing Yarmolinsky out.

Persons close to Yarmolinsky say the mission will be a lot harder to accomplish than it sounds. The 40-year-old lawyer, who likes his job, has powerful friends in the administration, including Theodore C. Sorensen, the President's personal braintruster and confidant, and Undersecretary of State George Ball.

Yarmolinsky was tagged as the Pentagon's "Mystery man" by other defense officials and the newspaper reporters who regularly cover the \$50 billion agency, because of his reluctance to discuss details of his work.

The Defense Department's official one-page biographical sketch of Yarmolinsky, published on his appointment, stated only that "he will carry out special projects and duties in various areas as may be assigned him by the secretary and deputy secretary of defense."